functioning as the High Court for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands. But, of late, there is a conspiracy going on in a section of the bureaucracy in the island. They want to change that provision and have a Judicial Commissioner's post which is an inferior type of judiciary and the people of Andaman and Nicobar are not willing to accept that position. Fortunately, my good friend, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam is also here. I would like to request him to consider to have a single-member permanent Bench of Calcutta High Court at Port Blair. This is the need of the islanders. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, the Minister wants to reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I have no objection, if he wants to reply.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : That is pre-arranged.

MR. SPEAKER : Even then, it is welcome!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIR (Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that the High Court Judicature of Calcutta is seriously considering having a permanent Circuit Bench at Port Blair and we hope that a decision will be taken soon. Thereafter we will have a permanent Bench at Port Blair. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Siwan is an important district of Bihar. The First President of India, Desh Ratna, Dr. Rajendra Prasadji and Maulana Mazrool Haq Saheb came from this district. But I am sorry to say that the district has been deprived of the facilities provided by the Railway Board.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER : We have already had a discussion on the Railway Budget .....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no mention about Bihar in the Railway Budget....(*Interruptions*).....Please allow me to say what I want to say....(*Interruptions*)..... Only Vaishali Super Fast Train runst here. I demand that the Central Government should run one more Super Fast Train in the memory of Desh Ratna.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already had a discussion on the Railway for 10 hours but even then you speak. Let other members speak. (*Inetrruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, not like this. Shrimati Suseela Gopalan.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, Onam is a national festival of Kerala and all the employees of the State Government and public sector cooperatives and even the petty shop owners are given salary advance and bonus advance. But the Central Government is not prepared to give this bonus advance and salary advance to their employees. Especially this year Onam falls at the end of this month. It is very difficult for the middle class employees to get on without these advances. You should take steps to disburse salary advance and bonus advance to the Central Government employees also.

One thing more. The Onam celebration is affected because of the lack of wagons to transport things into Kerala and to take them out of Kerala. This is a very important issue because Rs. 4·50 crores worth of coir goods are stranded and also 20,000 bags of cement is held up. So, the workers are actually going to be laid off. Therefore, immediate steps should be taken in this regard.

Wheat also is not taken to Kerala because in the open market there is no wheat and all the flour mills are

closed. This is going to affect Onam. That is why we are telling that closed wagons should be given to Kerala immediately. Otherwise there will be so much trouble and lakhs of workers will be affected. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. V. THANGKBALU (Dharmapuri) : Sir, the Television viewers in some pockets of Dharmapuri do not receive adequate signal and they complain about poor reception of LPT, Dharmapuri. The Dharmapuri district people do not get the Madras Doordarshan service at all. I request, through your goodself, the I. & B. Minister to consider the enhancement of the power of the existing transmitter to a high power transmitter (i.e., HPT) to increase the coverage area. In case it is not feasible, it is requested that an alternative accommodation may be seen, i.e., Vattalmalai near Dharmapuri which is at a higher altitude. It is needless to say that this proposal, if approved by the I. & B. Ministry will go a long way in satisfying a large chunk of TV viewers in Dharmapuri.

The Dharmapuri district consists of lot of mountains. Due to that the TV coverage is not satisfactory. We request the hon. Minister to give an HPT. That is the only alternative for the proper coverage in the district. Thank you.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent national importance.

It is learnt that an order has recently been issued from the Department of Power, Government of India, for transfer of a portion of assets and manpower from the National Thermal Power Corporation to a newly formed National Power Transmission Corporation (NTPC). Flouting the existing labour laws and even without giving any opportunity of exercising option, the workmen of the NTPC, both executives and non-executive, engaged in transmission line activities at present have been asked to join the NTPC This unilateral and arbitrary decision has caused resentment among all sections of the officers and workers of the NTPC which may tell upon the efficient functioning of the organisation. Above all, the job of grid management which is presently done by the zonal Electricity Boards on advisory basis through coordination between various State Electricity Boards and Central sector utilities is now going to be entrusted to the NTPC and such an important decision, so far as I know, has been taken without any prior consultation with the State Government. This attempt of establishing total control of the Central Government over the power management of all the regions of the country will inevitably jeopardise the interests of the States. This is nothing but a direct interference in the affairs of the States and a sinister design to shift power from the Concurrent List to the Union List. This is a very serious matter. I would, therefore, request the Central Government to refrain from this unjust and undesirable move. I would also request the Governmnt to make a statement forthwith on this matter, which is of national importance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the houses being constructed by D.D.A.....

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been discussed. Will you not allow others to speak? You are repeating it.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Sir, this is not the only point.

MR. SPEAKER : Others have said about it..... (*Interruptions*).....

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Sir, gross irregularities are increasing in the matter of allotment of flats and handing over the possession thereof by D.D.A. Flats are not allotted to needy persons but.. .....

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been raised , Paswanji ..... (*Interruptions*).....